

T.U.I. Theatre Bill

THEATER OF UNIVERSAL IMAGES

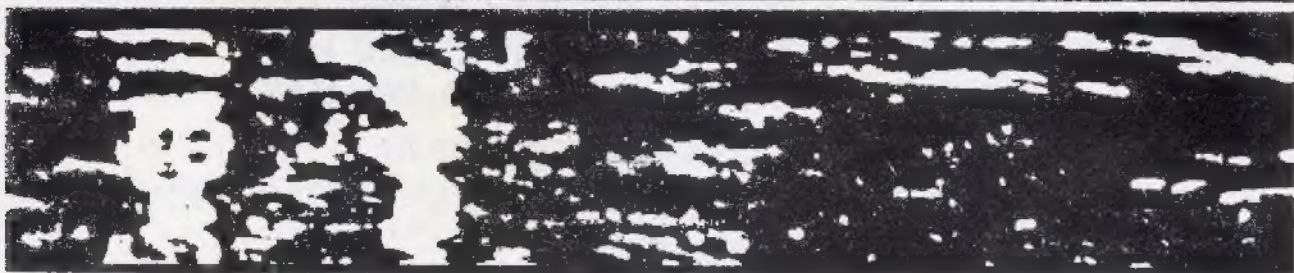
Clarence C. Lilley, Executive Producer

Pamela L. Goodlow, Producer

PRESENTS

Joseph A. Walker's
THE

RIVER NIGER



featuring

ESTHER ROLLE

September 15 - October 16, 1983

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THEATER OF UNIVERSAL IMAGES

Presents

JOSEPH A. WALKER'S

THE RIVER NIGER

featuring

ESTHER ROLLE

Directed by

CLARENCE C. LILLEY

Costume Designer

Jeffrey N. Mazor

Set Designer

Lisa L. Watson

Lighting Designer

William H. Grant, III

Technical Director/Stage Manager

Christine Rice

Technical Advisor

Wille R. Gibbs

Production Stage Manager

Pam Goodlow

— Cast —

* ESTHER ROLLE

RON BOB—SEMPLE GREGORY SULLIVAN

WILLIAM B. EBRON KENT C. JACKMAN*

LINDA EWING JENNIFER TROTT

*GWENDOLYN NELSON-FLEMING DEREK WHITAKER

FREDERICK B. OWENS LANYARD A. WILLIAMS

* APPEARING COURTESY ACTOR'S EQUITY

UNDERSTUDIES

ELLEN CLEGHORNE ★ ANDREW COOKSEY ★ BERYL ELLISON ★ KITTY GLENN

PAUL HICKS ★ GREGORY HOLTZ, SR. ★ KYLE TAYLOR

KEN THREET ★ DELORES RILEY ★ AMHAND SADAT

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CAST

GRANDMA WILHEMINA BROWN Esther Rolle
DR. DUDLEY STANTON Ron Bobb-Semple
JOHNNY WILLIAMS William Ebron
ANN VANDERGUILD Linda Ewing
MO Kent C. Jackman
MATTIE WILLIAMS Gwendolyn Nelson Fleming
JEFF WILLIAMS Frederick B. Owens
CHIPS Gregory Sullivan
GAIL Jennifer Trott
AL Derek Whitaker
SKEETER Lanyard Williams

TIME: February, early 1970's

PLACE: New York City -- Harlem

ACT ONE — 4:30 P.M.

ACT TWO — 10:45 A.M.

THERE WILL BE ONE TEN MINUTE INTERMISSION

ACT THREE — Friday Evening

Furniture on stage furnished by:

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Who's Who

ESTHER ROLLE (Grandma Wilhemina Brown) won an Emmy Award for her stellar performance in NBC-TV's SUMMER OF MY GERMAN SOLDIER, starred in Maya Angelou's story I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS for CBS and portrayed the legendary pioneer Mary Fields in the PBS series SOUTH BY NORTHWEST. Ms. Rolle was a regular on ONE LIFE TO LIVE before creating the role of Florida, first on MAUDE and then as the star of her own series GOOD TIMES. Ms. Rolle's television stardom is based on a solid foundation in theater. She was a founding member of the famed Negro Ensemble Company, has appeared on Broadway in DON'T PLAY US CHEAP, AMEN CORNER and BLUES FOR MR. CHARLIE; Off-Broadway in BLACK GIRL and THE BLACKS as well as appearing in THE CRUCIBLE, STY OF THE BLIND PIG, DAME LORRAINE, PURLIE, THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH and BLACK NATIVITY. Ms. Rolle also has recorded an album of poetry THE GARDEN OF MY MIND and received plaudits for her one-woman show AIN'T I A WOMAN.

RON BOBB-SEMPLE (Dr. Dudley Stanton) is a native of Guyana, South America. His stage credits, to name a few, include the roles of Blind Jordan in THE STY OF THE BLIND PIG, John in THE RIVER NIGER, Oscar in THE ODD COUPLE, Ned in FREEMAN and Howard in BALLAD FOR BIMSHIRE. In addition to being one of the founding members of the Guyana Dramatic Core of New York, Ron is also an active member of the Renaissance Drama Workshop of Queens. ONE LOVE (244-3800)

WILLIAM EBRON (Johnny Williams) A native of Newark and a TUI veteran, Mr. Ebron made his acting debut in SAM CARTER BELONGS HERE. His most recent appearance was in the TUI production of AIN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE A NATURAL DEATH. His film credits include THE WARRIORS AND THE CELLAR. Mr. Ebron directed TUI's productions of THE FIRST BREEZE OF SUMMER, RAISIN, THE PAST IS THE PAST for the Newark Black Film Festival and many others. He wrote two plays that were produced at TUI-MOMMA and 48 HOURS TO LIVE.

LINDA EWING (Ann Vandergulld) was last seen at TUI as a dancer in TOE JAM. Her other credits include, GODSPELL, GUYS AND DOLLS, A CHRISTMAS CAROL, HAPPY ENDING, WINE IN THE WILDERNESS and GURSKY AND THE FABULOUS FOUR. She appeared at Lincoln Center with the Salt and Pepper Mime Company, in HAMLET at the Elizabethan Gardens in Roanoke, North Carolina and at Theater 22 and appears in THE ATTIC for Cable TV scheduled to be aired this Fall.

KENT C. JACKMAN (Moe Hayes) has performed on stage and screen in such productions as: MACBETH, NEVIS MOUNTAIN DEW, SILKWOOD and NO PLACE TO BE SOMEBODY. He will appear as Jack in the upcoming PBS film JACK AND THE DENTIST'S DAUGHTER. Mr. Jackman has studied with Endre Hules, Robert Alexander and Joseph A. Walker.

GWENDOLYN NELSON-FLEMING (Matlie Williams) a native of Newark, was most recently seen at TUI in AIN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE A NATURAL DEATH. Prior to that, this talented performer and writer was seen in RAISIN, DUTCHMAN and DON'T BOTHER ME I CAN'T COPE.

FREDERICK B. OWENS (Jeff Williams) first appeared on stage in LIFE IS at Essex County College in Newark. He appeared to rave reviews in TUI's production of THE FIRST BREEZE OF SUMMER and most recently was seen in AIN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE A NATURAL DEATH.

GREGORY SULLIVAN (Chips) Has played leading roles on stage in Amiri Baraka's DUTCHMAN, Langston Hughes' TAMBOURINES FOR GLORY; BONDINGS and SPECIAL ATTRACTION and was a company member of the Theater for the New City. His film credits include NIGHT PEOPLE and THE JUSTICE SYSTEM, he also has appeared on the soap opera RYAN'S HOPE. A Staten Island resident, Mr. Sullivan also paints portraits, plays guitar and sings original songs. (212) 447-6749, 442-2715.

JENNIFER LYNN TROTT (Gail) is currently a member of the American Community Theater with Maxwell Granville where she appeared as Mary in a segment of DETECTIVE STORY. She appeared with the Hadley Players in FAMILY PORTRAIT. Other stage credits include: ANTIGONE, THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THOMAS A. DORSEY, LITTLE ABNER and FOR COLORED GIRLS... Ms. Trott, a singer and dancer, resides in Englewood, New Jersey.

DEREK WHITAKER (Al) has studied and acted with the American Musical and Dramatic Academy, the Nat Horne Musical Theatre, Metropolitan Opera House and the Beryl Smith-Durham Acting Workshop. He has appeared on television in FREEDOM TO SPEAK, Off-Off Broadway in THE SWAN SONG and was a member of the Phil Black Dance Studio.

LANYARD AUSTIN WILLIAMS (Skeeter) a 17 year veteran of the stage, Mr. Williams has appeared in many productions on the West Coast. His credits there include TARTUFFE, INHERIT THE WIND, SHORT EYES, PIPPIN, HAIR, JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR and the TV-movie WHITE MAMA. He is one of the founders of THEATRE EXPOSED, Las Vegas' most prominent theatre company and most recently appeared at TUI in AIN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE A NATURAL DEATH.

WILLIAM H. GRANT, III (Lighting Designer) has designed lighting for productions throughout the U.S., Europe, Africa and the Middle East. He designed lighting for more than twenty productions at the Inner City Cultural Center in Los Angeles and San Francisco and currently is resident lighting designer for PHILDANCO. Mr. Grant currently has a book on the market entitled "A Basic Handbook for Stage Lighting."

WILLIE R. GIBBS, JR. (Technical Advisor) is the Assistant General Manager of the Theatre of Universal Images. His experience spans more than sixty shows in the areas of producer, technical director and stage manager. Mr. Gibbs is also a free-lance consultant with the New Jersey Stage Hands Local.

JEFFREY N. MAZOR (Costume Designer) was nominated for an AUDELCO Award for his work on DUNBAR and designed costumes for STOMPIN AT THE SAVOY, JAM, STREAMERS, LES BLANC and TUI's productions of THE FIRST BREEZE OF SUMMER and AIN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE A NATURAL DEATH. He has assisted on several films including RAGTIME, BOOK OF DANIEL and ALL THAT JAZZ. He also worked on the TV movie CHIEFS.

LISA WATSON (Set Designer) Has an extensive design background including work for the Negro Ensemble Company, the Dance Theater Workshop, the Richard Allen Center, Process Studio/Grady Jeffries, the Billie Holiday Theatre, the Just Us Theatre Company in Atlanta, the Atlanta Ballet, the Playground Players and Theatre Management Associates/Ashton Springer.

CHRISTINE RICE (Technical Director/Stage Manager) comes to TUI from California where she has been stage managing for several years. Her credits include THE EXCEPTION AND THE RULE, THE LITTLE MAHAGONY, HOUSE ON UNAMERICAN ACTIVITIES, THE BADEN, and STOMPIN AT THE SAVOY. She has worked for many theaters including the Odessey, Inner City Cultural Center, On Broadway Theatre in San Francisco and Paramount Theater in Oakland. Ms. Rice also was a stage manager for the Black Film Maker's Hall of Fame for two years.

PAMELA L. GOODLOW (Producer) has traveled throughout the country managing and producing plays for more than fifteen years. TUI's version of THE EMPEROR JONES marked her initial endeavour at TUI as general manager. She also general managed TUI's FIRST BREEZE OF SUMMER. She traveled to Texas and California as tour manager for the National Touring Company's production of DUNBAR and returned to TUI to produce AIN'T SUPPOSED TO DIE A NATURAL DEATH. Her extensive producing credits also include PROUD starring Glynn Turman, STOMPIN AT THE SAVOY and NORMAN IS THAT YOU?

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Who's Who, continued

CLARENCE C. LILLEY (Executive Producer/Director) is the founder of the Theater of Universal Images. Currently serving as president of TUI's Board of Directors, Mr. Lilley has produced or directed more than 40 stage productions. He has an extensive background in theater and telecommunications and is Vice President and co-founder of the Connections Communications Corporation. Mr. Lilley is a member of Newark's Black Film Festival Committee and a board member of the Cable TV Network of New Jersey (CNT).

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The **THEATER OF UNIVERSAL IMAGES (TUI)** was founded in 1970 to provide professional theater, training and entertainment to the Greater Newark community. TUI currently operates a professional theater and media production center.

TUI has mounted numerous productions that have been lauded by theater critics and theatre-goers. The plays have ranged from comedies to musicals and serious drama. Plays that project positive images and make positive statements on conditions within our society are emphasized. The theater's policy of producing new, original plays as well as established plays, has benefitted many up and coming playwrights.

TUI has also produced concerts, radio dramas, film and video productions and has established a casting service for professional talent. TUI has provided training and employment for college students and participates in such programs as Summer Employment For Youth and Winter Employment For Youth.

The priorities of TUI include increasing the opportunities in theater arts and communications and the cultural enrichment of the Greater Newark community.

The purposes of TUI are:

1. Creation of productions that will result in the expansion of the performing theater and mass communications industries in Newark.
2. To provide professional instruction in performing, production and communication at a reasonable cost.
3. To contribute to the growth, and development of the performing arts in the Greater Newark area.
4. To contribute to the growth, development and revitalization of Newark.

TUI is a member of:
The New Jersey Theater Group
Newark Arts Council
Newark Artists Collective
The Arts Council of North-West Essex

TUI is a professional (Actor's Equity) theater.

The Theater of Universal Images is supported in part by grants from:
The New Jersey State Council for the Arts, The National Endowment for the Arts.
New Jersey Business Arts Foundation, Prudential, Newark Chamber of Commerce, The County of Essex and The County of Union, N.J.

THEATER OF UNIVERSAL IMAGES
P.O. Box 10036 — 1020 Broad Street
Newark, New Jersey 07101
(201) 596-0407

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PRODUCTION STAFF

COSTUME DESIGNER	Jeffrey N. Mazor
SET DESIGNER	Lisa L. Watson
LIGHTING DESIGNER	William H. Grant, III
TECHNICAL ADVISOR	Willie R. Gibbs, Jr.
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER	Pam Goodlow
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR/STAGE MANAGER	Christine Rice
WARDROBE	C'Esther Wooten
PROPS	Shirley Williams
MAKE-UP	Judi Ann Mason
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SOUND TECHNICIAN	Jemie Bailey
PHOTOGRAPHER	Glen Frieson
HOUSE MANAGER	Wayne Slappy
HEAD USHERETTE	Judy Clark

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ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER	Willie R. Gibbs
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	Cheryl Buffalo
PUBLIC RELATIONS/PROMOTIONS	Lynn Jackson McFarlane
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DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT	Barbara Herbert
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER	William Tatum
EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR	Bob LaBruzzo
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BOX OFFICE TREASURER	Kathleen Lilly

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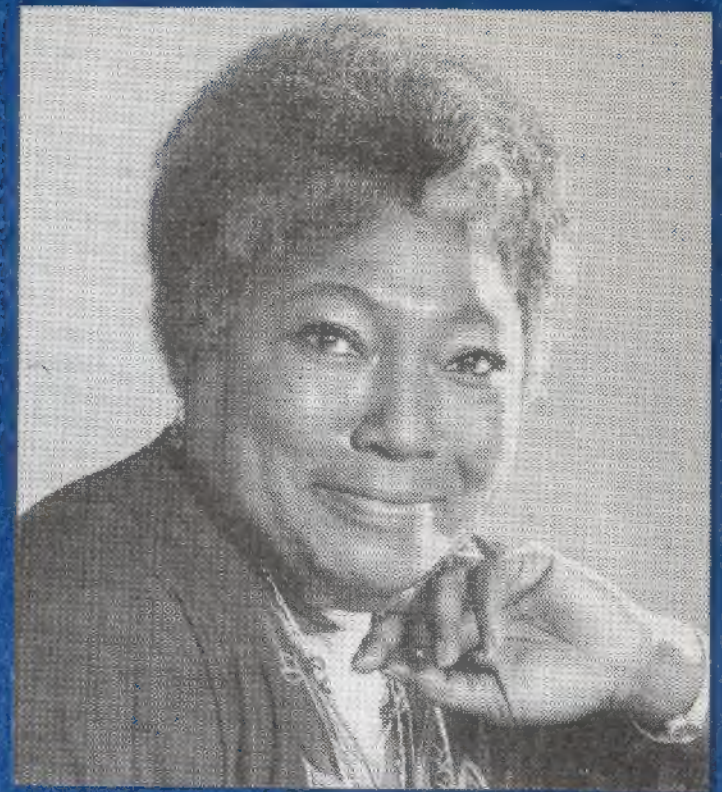
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TUI-1

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Gregory Sullivan

Jennifer Trott
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